



Raubichi spectacular

The men's 4x7.5 km relay race marked the conclusion of the world biathlon championship at Raubichi on the outskirts of Byelorussia's capital Minsk. This spectacular drew participants from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia, but it was the GDR who proved to have the fastest team, followed by Norway and the USSR.

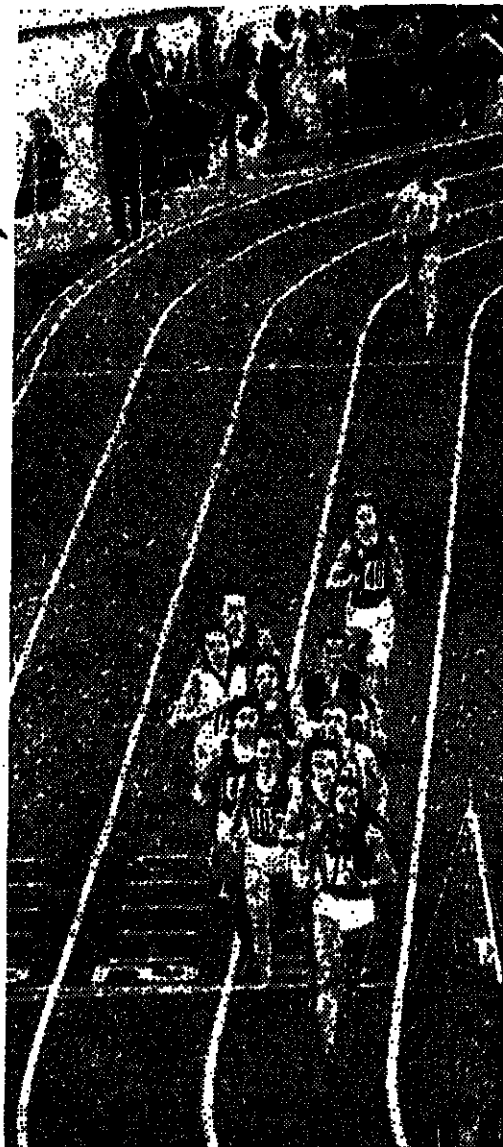
During breaks between races the sportsmen recuperated in hunting lodges on the bank of the Uryazh River. The greatest amount of celebrating must have been in lodge No. 5, housing the GDR team which picked up four golds and three silvers. Norway captured one gold, two silver and one bronze medals, and the USSR won a gold, a silver and four bronzes. The FRG won one bronze award.

It was a spectacular pageant, the President of the International Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon Union, Sven Thofelt, Sweden, said at the closing ceremony, warmly thanking both organizers and participants.

SALNIKOV REMAINS IN TOP FORM

Thrice Olympic titlist Vladimir Salnikov, Leningrad, who has not lost a single 1,500 m freestyle event for four years, has won the Soviet winter swimming title, setting a new 800 m world record, 7:52.03, and clocking up 15,03.07 overall, these are best times for the season. The championship held at the 50 m Olimpiyskiy Swimming Pool in Moscow also drew foreign competitors.

We'll use the results in naming the national team for March 12-14 when we meet with the GDR in Moscow, the USSR Sports Committee coach Anatoly Pimenov said in a TASS interview. It looks like our swimmers are in good shape, he noted, and we have some promising young talents, primarily Dmitry Volkov, 15, from Moscow, who made the 100 m breast-stroke top eight.



The USSR athletic cup finals ended at Krylatskoye in Moscow with the victory of Moscow Spartak. In the photo: the women's finals in the 1,500 m.

Photo by Vitaly Blagodarov

Results of the 'Russian Winter' rally



A glimpse of the "Russian Winter" rally.

Photo by Viktor Dubil and Valery Zularov

The Soviet crew of Vello Ounpuu and Aarne Timusk, Tallinn, and the Czechoslovak team won the individual and team titles at the 11th International "Russian Winter" motor rally, which forms the first stage of the socialist countries' "Friendship Cup". The USSR came in 30 seconds behind, and Poland was third.

The next stage is scheduled for May 1-3 in Varna, Bulgaria.

TWO POINTS TOWARDS 'RUDE PRAYO' PRIZE

The USSR hockey side beat Czechoslovakia, 5-3, with goals from Kapustin, Larionov, Makarov, Krutov and Shepelev, in the first of two games at Prague's Palace of Sport. The results count towards the "Rule pravo" tournament scoring.

BRONZE FOR PETRUSYOVA

European speed-skating winner and overall world sprint titlist, Natalya Petrusyova, from Moscow, gained the title of the third world all-rounder at Inzell, West Germany. The winner Karin Busch-Enke.

Archers contesting

Natalya Butuzova and Viktor Ilyin emerged victorious in the national indoor archery championship held in Moscow.

Photo by Sergei Pronikov



STONES PARDONED

American high-jumper Dwight Stones is again making newspaper headlines in the USA—but this time it is nothing to do with the money scandal which resulted in him being stripped of amateur status for some time. The celebrated athlete of the 70s, who set ten successive world records, has announced his decision to try and make his country's team for the 1984

Summer Games—and to compete for a win there.

Stones' career came to a abrupt end, as many experts believed final end, in 1979 when he took part in a projected NBC "superstar" show for a tidy sum.

Now Stones has been pardoned. The athlete, who is 31 by the time of the 1984 Olympics, recently jumped 228 cm.

OLYMPIC PROGRAMME UNCHANGED

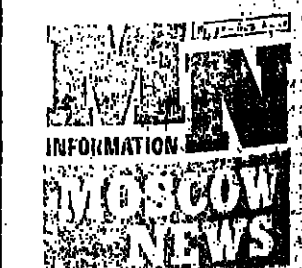
A recent Los Angeles session of the IOC Executive Board, a press-commission and a medical commission focused on progress in preparation for the Los Angeles Games. The conference noted that halfway had been made in events such as swimming. However no agreement was reached regarding the list of sports gear and general equipment to be used at the Games.

There is serious concern over the transport problems caused by the long distances which the athletes will have to travel, since many of the Olympic villages are 30 to 50 kilometres away from the sports arenas.

No decision has yet been reached for providing accommodation in Los Angeles of international judges. At the Moscow Games they were the responsibility of the Games' Organizing Committee.

The session discussed the programme for the coming 1984 Olympics, and left the Games programme unchanged. Tennis and baseball will figure as exhibition sports, while 1988 tennis and table tennis will apparently be included into the Olympic programme.

Many of the delegates stressed they had profited on many occasions by the experience of the Moscow Olympics.



EDITORIAL BOARD

Address: 19/2 Gorky St. Moscow, USSR. Printed at the "Moscow News" Press. Published Tuesday and Friday. Index 5070.

MN INFORMATION No. 11

By air - from Moscow

INFORMATION

No. 15 (329), FEBRUARY 20-22, 1982

Price 5 kopeks

The continents should not become gas chambers

In connection with the multi-billion programme for US chemical rearmament announced by president Ronald Reagan, TASS made a statement, which says in part:

The USA does not attempt to hide the fact that, according to its plans, chemical war could be conducted in densely populated areas in Europe and on other continents. This criminal purpose is evident from the plans now under consideration in the USA for equipping cruise missiles, aviation bombs and artillery shells with new chemical agents. Large quantities of such arms are intended to be deployed in European countries as part of the American forward-based weapons.

These plans for transforming whole continents into gas chambers are now being drawn up with stunning cynicism and reveal real value of Washington's hypocritical haranguing over "human rights".

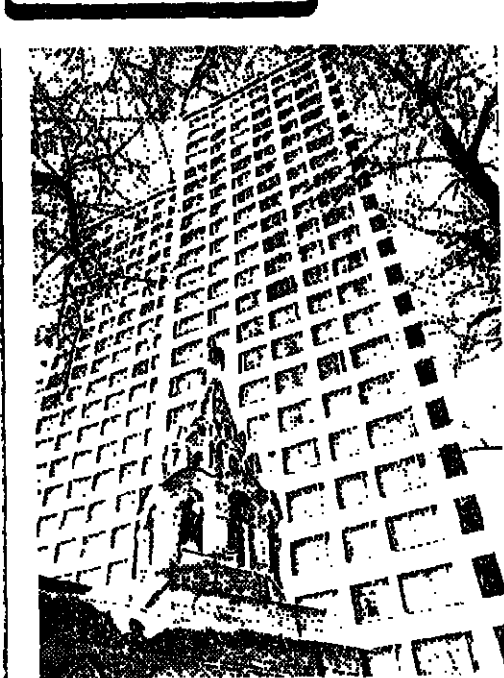
The duty of all peoples, all honest people on this planet, the statement emphasises, is to disrupt these monstrous plans against humanity and peace.

Agenda for the 37th Session of the UN General Assembly

New York. The lowering of international tension, positive measures to check the arms race, the elimination of the threat of nuclear war and the settling of regional conflicts through negotiations—these are the issues that will dominate the 37th Session of the UN General Assembly, which will open here on September 21 this year.

The UN Secretary-General published a preliminary list of 128 issues included in the session's agenda.

MOSCOW SIGHTS



The 17th-century Simeon Stolpnik Church affords a pleasant contrast to the modern outlines of Prospekt Kalinina. ● The timeless romance of the city's old boulevards.



Round the Soviet Union

● A FRIENDSHIP GARDEN HAS BEEN PLANTED IN THE GEORGIAN CAPITAL, TBILISI. It marks 60 years of the USSR formation. The garden in the Gidani housing development was laid by people, representing all the constituent republics.

● A GROUP OF CADETS FROM THE ARKHANGELSK NAVIGATION SCHOOL IN NORTHERN RUSSIA HAVE SET SAIL ABOARD THE "SEDOV", THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BARQUE WHICH WAS RECENTLY TURNED INTO A TRAINING SHIP. Their voyage will take them to the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic and the Indian oceans.

● THE VALLEY OF THE MOUNTAIN RIVER ARDON IS FAST BECOMING A MAJOR SPA AREA OF THE NORTH OSSETIA IN THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS. A map depicting mineral water sources has been compiled, which will provide the basis for building spas in this mountain district.

Finland's President to visit the USSR

At the invitation of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Mauno Koivisto, President of the Finnish Republic, will come to the Soviet Union for a working visit in the first half of March this year.



A monument to Field Marshal Alexander Suvorov (1730-1800), great patriot of Russia, has recently been unveiled in Komsomolsk Square. It is the joint work of sculptor Oleg Komov and architect Vladimir Nadezhdin.

USSR LEADS THE WORLD IN READING

A quarter of all books produced in the world are published in the USSR where they appear in 140 languages. This country also leads the world in the publication of translated literature.

This was revealed at a press conference in Moscow by Academician Petryanov-Sokolov, chairman of the board of the All Union Society of Book Lovers. He described the activities of the society which unites 14 million members and more than 70 thousand associated numbers, including factories, farms, offices, and educational establishments.

FACTS and EVENTS

● Agatha Barbara has become the new president of Malta. The 59-year-old leader of the ruling Labour Party is a teacher by profession and was the first woman to be elected to the Maltese parliament in 1947.

● The Dutch parliament is firmly opposed to the deployment of chemical weapons in Holland or to their use by the Dutch Armed Forces. It is said in a resolution approved in the lower chamber of parliament and tabled by the Labour Party.

● Cargo planes belonging to the CIA are landing in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China. They are delivering weapons for the Afghan bandits who have found refuge on Pakistani soil. This has been reported by the Indian weekly "Bhaskar".

● It has been officially announced that the Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shaukat has resigned. He is to be replaced by Sahibzada Jakub Ali Khan, formerly Pakistani Ambassador to a number of countries.

● Senegal and the People's Republic of Angola have established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

PRICE HIKES IN ROMANIA

Bucharest. According to the Agence France Presse, a decree by the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania went into effect on February 15. It specified higher retail prices for food products and, by way of compensation, higher pay, pensions and allowances for children.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMME IN FRANCE

Paris. The French Prime Minister, P. Mauroy, has announced the programme of his leftist government for the next six months, which envisages the continuation of socio-economic reforms.

Commencing its spring session, the parliament will consider five draft laws aimed at expanding the rights of the working people. The drafts deal with the conclusion of collective agreements between the administration of factories and their personnel; labour safety; improved sanitary conditions in industry; and other labour matters. Measures are also envisaged to increase employment and improve the social security system for factory and office workers.

The government is also planning to take positive steps to strengthen the state sector in France. Thus, the parliament will consider draft laws envisaging reforms in the banking system and greater participation by workers in the running of state-owned enterprises.



Tensions continue in southern Lebanon stimulated by intense military preparations by Israel. The army in Lebanon has been placed on red alert across the country in case of Israeli aggression. The United detachments of the Lebanese National Patriotic Forces and the Palestinian Resistance Movement are also in full combat readiness. In the photo: patrol of the National Patriotic Forces. Photo AFP-TASS

ATTENTION, SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD

DEAR READERS,

"MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies. Nothing short of the material carried in the editions of both "Moscow News" and "MN Information" gives you a full idea of life in the Soviet Union for the week.

Subscription to "Moscow News" and "MN Information" can be taken out with the following firms.

FINLAND

- Kansankulttuuri Oy, Kasarminkatu 44 A krs 00130 Helsinki 13
- Kulttuurikanava Oy, Korkeavuorenkatu 17 SF-00130 Helsinki 13
- Akateeminen Kirjakauppa, Subscription Department, Postioikeus 128, 00101 Helsinki 10
- Suomalainen Kirjakauppa Oy, c/o Raoulitien Oy, Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 2, 00441 Vantaa 64

GHANA

- Science Spot Bookshop, P.O. Box 10331, Accra North
- The University Bookshop, P.O. Box 1, Legon

GREECE

- "Kultura", Genadiou Str. 6 (Academias), Athens
- "Kultura", 25, Vasiliss Solias Str., Thessaloniki
- Synchronti Epochi Str., Akademiass 78, Athens 142
- Synchronti Epochi Str., Aristotelous, 7 Thessaloniki

HOLLAND

- Bookhandel Pegasus, Leidsestraat 25, 1017 NT Amsterdam

For all questions involving non-receipt of the paper, delivery of the paper to a new address, etc., please contact the firm from whom you obtained the subscription.

DEAR READERS! In other countries, subscription for "MN Information" can be taken out with companies which do business with V/O Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga. The "Moscow News" weekly is available in Russian as well. Contact the firm for agency handling subscription for Soviet periodicals to subscribe.

A call by foreign ministers of Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea

Vientiane. The ministers of foreign affairs of Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea have appealed to the countries of the region and ASEAN to join forces to stabilize the situation and ensure security and peace in Indochina and South-East Asia. A joint communiqué recording the results of the ministers' conference held here stresses that the peoples of the three countries advocate normal friendly relations between the nations of the region based on mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The main obstacle to normalizing the situation and a threat to peace, the communiqué stresses, is the aggressive policy of American imperialism and Chinese hegemonism, which attempt to create discord among the three countries of Indochina and the ASEAN countries.

The main task of all peoples who desire peace, it is pointed out in the document, consists in an untiring struggle for peace and the disruption of aggressive designs by reactionary forces.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVE OF SOCIALIST STATES AT VIENNA TALKS

(Continued from page 1)

At the first stage reductions and limitations will apply to the troops and armaments of the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet Union is to reduce its ground troops in Central Europe by 20 thousand and the United States by 15 thousand. The specific composition of the ground troops and armaments to be reduced will be laid down in a special protocol appended to the agreement.

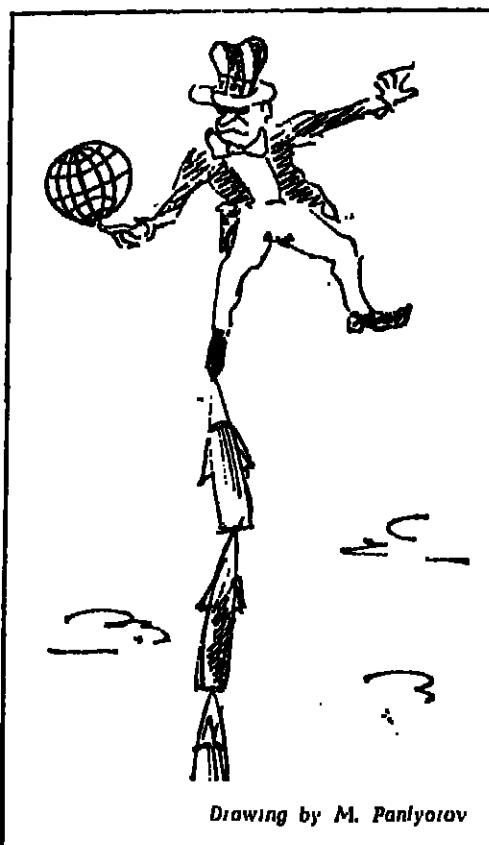
Simultaneously with the Soviet and American troops and armaments reduction, the other parties to the agreement are to freeze the numbers of their armed forces — each side on a collective basis — for the duration of the agreement.

To facilitate the continuity of the first and the second stages and the integrity of the process the draft agreement invites all parties to reduce their troops and armaments on an approxi-

ately proportionate basis in the course of the second stage of the agreement.

A mechanism of maintaining agreed parity in the numbers of armed forces in Central Europe upon the completion of the two reduction stages serves the same aims. The draft also stipulates that no side should have more troops in Central Europe than 50 per cent of the collective levels of 800 thousand men, established for each alliance.

The draft treaty incorporates measures to ensure the implementation of the agreement. These include mutual notification of the initiation and completion of practical steps towards reduction; the establishment of temporary posts to verify the withdrawal of troops and armaments; the use of national technical verification means, and the establishment of a relevant consultation mechanism.



Drawing by M. Panlyarov

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORTS ON UN FORCE IN LEBANON

New York. J. P. de Cuellar, UN Secretary-General, has presented a special report to the Security Council on the UN provisional force in Lebanon. In it, he points to the continuing tension in the region and to the incessant violations of Lebanon's territorial integrity. It is stated in the report that troops supported and equipped by Israel have not ceased their encroachments on the area where the international force is stationed. As a result, the UN force is unable to fulfil

its task of supervising handover to the Lebanese government of control over southern parts of the country which were subjected to aggression in 1978.

The Lebanese government has drawn up a programme of a stage-by-stage solution of the problem and for the implementation, with the help of UN forces, of its control over the country, including the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied southern border.

FINLAND OUTLINES ITS COURSE

Helsinki. The composition of the new government of the Finnish Republic has been declared here. It is led by Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa (Finnish Social Democratic Party). His cabinet includes representatives

of the Social Democratic Party, the Centre Party, the People's Democratic League, the Swedish People's Party, as well as one non-party member.

The policy to be followed by the new government was announced. The new government, it is said, in accordance with the "Paasikivi-Kekkonen line", will conduct an active peace-loving policy, of the Soviet-Finnish Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance signed in 1948 will act as the basis. The government will continue to develop mutually beneficial relations with the Soviet Union and traditional links with countries of Northern Europe. It will promote greater cooperation in trade, the economy, industry, science and technology with the Soviet Union.

SCHMIDT SPEAKS OUT

New York. In an interview to "The New York Times", the FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt expressed his concern over the fact that, from year to year, the US Federal outlays increasingly exceeded the re-

ceipts. High interest rates, he said, are detrimental to the American economy to a greater extent than other countries of the world.

The result of such policies is a massive influx of capital to the United States. At the present time, said the Chancellor, the USA is a major lender of capital. And this capital is being lent to the countries of the world.

According to Schmidt, countries of Western Europe are in a much more dangerous position than is realized in the United States. The economies of these countries are threatened by the severe depression to have been experienced since the mid-thirties.

REPRISALS GROW

WORSE IN TURKEY

Paris. In Turkey there is a growing wave of capital flight against left-wing groups which leads to the destruction of Turkish society by means of terror. This was declared by members of the International Federation for the Rights of Man delegation, who were in Turkey. They had been invited to cut short their visit to the latter country in view of the situation by the Turkish authorities to forbid Turks to have any contact with the delegation.

The delegation of the International Federation for the Rights of Man was taking place according to a plan agreed with the Turkish authorities. The delegation's task was to investigate the situation in Turkey, which has been a member of the United Nations since 1952. The delegation's report, which was submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission, stated that the Turkish authorities had used torture during the investigation.

THE PENTAGON'S DECISION

London. In the middle of next month the Pentagon has decided to deploy an American military contingent from the "rapid deployment force" on the island of Iran situated at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba in the Red Sea. According to "The Times" newspaper, the contingent will form an integral part of the so-called multinational force on the Sinai Peninsula which is to replace the Israeli occupation force after the latter's planned withdrawal in line with the Camp David deal.

"The Times" quotes Pentagon sources as saying that the contingent will be mainly made up of 600 commandos from 82nd airborne division, the mainstay of the "rapid deployment force".

FACTS AND EVENTS

① Failure to observe elementary safety regulations cost the lives of 1,295 workers who died in industrial accidents in South Korea last year. A further 14,800 workers were maimed or injured.

② According to the Dohru-based "Al-Safir", three attempts were made on the life of the Sudanese president Nimeiri over the past two months.

③ In its drive to strengthen the country's air force, the Japanese defence agency is planning to convert a hundred of its 132 Phantom interceptors into fighter-bombers. tentatively the government will provide 1,300 million yen for this project.

④ The Reagan administration is planning to increase its military aid to Tel Aviv by another 300 million dollars to bring it up to 1,700 million dollars during the next fiscal year. Out of the 1,400 million dollars of military aid that Israel is to receive during the current financial year, 350 million is to be granted on highly favourable terms.

⑤ Over 2,500,000 people, or every other Bolivian suffer from TB, according to the country's Ministry of Social Welfare and Public Health.

PEOPLE

Not long ago, former Italian serviceman Luigi Dangelio was notified that he had been awarded a pension for a wound received in World War I. Some sixty years after his original application to the war ministry for a pension, Dangelio, who is now 76, has at last been told that he is to receive nearly 1,500 lire in compensation to be paid over the next three years.

R. Finnes and C. Burton, of Britain, have set out in snowmobiles for the North Pole departing from the Canadian coast. Their intentions are to cross the Arctic completing their journey near the island of Spitzbergen.

Burglary: PARIS LEADS THE WORLD

Paris. Reuter-TASS. Paris has won the unhappy title of the world's most burgled city. There are 26 break-ins a year per 1,000 inhabitants, this ranks above Los Angeles with 25 and New York with 22, said the French insurance association's information centre. The figures included thefts from homes, company premises and shops.



In Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, the UN Economic Commission for Africa has been presented with maps of the geology and mineral resources of Africa compiled and printed in the USSR. The first maps of their kind in African history, they are based on information culled from Soviet and foreign literature, statistical surveys, as well as on data obtained by Soviet satellites. The scope of data used is unprecedented.

ISRAEL SHAPES

WASHINGTON'S MIDDLE EAST POLICIES

Washington. The Israeli secret service, Mossad, has initiated numerous agencies of the American administration. Its agents often hold high-ranking posts in key agencies, which are in the position of shaping the US policy towards Israel, claims the "Spotlight" newspaper. Observers point out that a situation like this only leads to Israel

virtually dictating the planning and execution of Washington's foreign policies in the Middle East.

Stressing the impunity of the Israeli agents' actions, the newspaper further says that the American authorities have actually given their tacit approval to Mossad's illegal activities in the United States.

Science and technology

WHAT

A LOUDSPEAKER!

The biggest sound in Japan in the world was built in Osaka and weighs 1.5 tonnes. Its aggregate power is 1,400 W. This device forms part of a system designed to stimulate processes resulting from seismic and other tremors.

HOUSES MADE FROM SULPHUR

Sulphur could in the future be employed as a good building material, claim Philippine civil engineers. Substituting sulphur for cement they have discovered a strong water-proof insulation material.

GIVE US A HAND

In Toulouse French scientists have designed a robot with an artificial skin. Its elastic "hand" can actually "feel" the weight of different objects, their resistance, and can even turn over a newspaper pages.

MONITORING OIL RIGS

The Norwegian Technological Institute is presently designing a monitoring equipment for offshore drilling rigs. Its magnetic heads located in the rig's oil platform signal through both a computer and a communications

satellite to the on-shore station. Here specialists are able to determine by the nature of signals if there are cracks or other defects in the structures of the oil rig.

TO GREATER HEIGHTS

Scientists at the University of Birmingham claim that the drug taken for glaucoma is a good remedy for mountain sickness. After taking the drug, reports the Associated Press agency, a climber will feel at an 8,000-metre as good as at 6,000-metre altitude.

AVALANCHE CONTROL

Avalanches have often caused enormous damage to agriculture, forestry and human life. A means to combat this calamity was put forward by the Austrian firm Dynamit Nobel. This is an explosive called "Avalanchit-100". It does not damage the soil with its shock waves, affecting only the snow layer.

OF INTEREST

Let's talk it over, pal!

The more acute one's sense of loneliness, the more one tends to "humanize" animals, claim psychologists. 40 per cent of US dog-owners celebrate their pet's birthday, while 70 per cent talk to them as if they were humans, writes the French "Matin" magazine.

Spectacles only for the rich

The city museum of Tampere has opened an exhibition demonstrating spectacles from different periods.

It is a fact that the first "goggles" for night "improvement" appeared in Finland during the 18th century and that only the wealthiest citizens could afford them. The lenses for the glasses were made from rock crystal.

TURKEY IN THE GRIP OF PROBLEMS

Turkey's economic difficulties are making her increasingly dependent on the West politically, says A. Filippov, the Pravda correspondent in Ankara.

In particular, he points out that Turkish foreign debts to the West are not declining and are equal to 20,000 million dollars and that the national economy cannot function without short-term loans from the outside. Taking advantage of the Turkish difficulties, Washington seeks to involve it in the implementation of its military-strategic plans in the region. This, the granting of further military-economic aid is connected to demands that Turkish territory be made available for the stationing of the "rapid deployment force" and the construction of new military bases. However, Filippov emphasizes, the American plans are causing concern to the Turkish public opinion.

MUBARAK AVERSE TO FOLLOWING IN SADAT'S WAKE

IZVESTIA's political analyst Alexander Bovin, in reviewing the talks of the Egyptian President Mubarak which recently took place in Western Europe, writes that one gets the impression President Mubarak and his West European counterparts dismissed the possibility of settling the Palestinian question outside the Camp David framework. Significantly, Egypt's policy under Sadat on pressure directed against Israel has been supplemented by its present emphasis on the need for similar pressure against the USA.

Mubarak's desire to strengthen Egypt's links with Western Europe, Bovin notes, is in line with Cairo's obvious intentions to improve relations with other Arab states and the desire to isolate the world that Egypt is still a non-aligned nation. The new position also made significant moves to revitalize the Egyptian economy, check corruption and bribery, and commence talks with the opposition. All this is indicative, the paper notes, of Mubarak's reluctance to follow in Sadat's steps and the fact that Egypt is striving for more balanced and independent foreign policy, Bovin claims.

WEST EUROPEANS ARE DUPED BY PROPAGANDA

Vitaly Koblyak in his comment on the position of Washington at the Geneva talks on limiting nuclear arms in Europe published by IZVESTIYA GAZETA, maintains that the tactical blocking by the USA of important talks with Moscow, and the refusal to take a realistic stand are based on the ignorance of the "average" American and of many West Europeans. Koblyak believes that Moscow's "even option" and other propaganda tricks are used deliberately to confuse the public. The fact of the situation, the article continues, is that the West Europeans have no intention of concluding an agreement. Their goal is to play for time under the pretext of talks and other leading negotiations to a dead end, or, though on "legitimate" grounds, to deploy another 600 medium-range missiles in Western Europe. Also they hope through this method to achieve their basic aim — military superiority. Though this is clear to us, Koblyak emphasizes, many people in the West still do not realize this, as they are being duped by propaganda.

AMERICAN-ISRAELI STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

The spearhead of US-Israeli "understanding" is directed against Arab countries, writes the Soviet journal, WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, commenting on the memorandum of understanding in the field of strategic cooperation, signed between the United States and Israel. The signing of the memorandum marks the further consolidation of the military alliance between the two countries. It is said in the commentary. Now that Israel has been made into Washington's official military partner in the region the military policies pursued by the ruling circles of the two countries have been elevated to a new stage. It also signifies the further build-up of Israel's military potential. Even today, however, the number of arms possessed by Israel is extremely great. It is precisely Israel that leads the world in the ratio of military men per 1,000 of its population. Not only Israel does acquire large quantities of military equipment abroad, it also has a highly developed military industry turning out weapons both for its own army and for export. Its military exports went up from 425 million dollars in 1978 to 1,450 million dollars in 1980 and to 2,000 million dollars in 1981.



Lee Rosener from Cantonville, in the USA, has made himself a garage out of snow. The heavy snowfalls this winter ensured him a plentiful supply of building materials. The only pity is that in the spring Rosener's garage will melt.

Photo by UPI-TASS

ing the 18th century and that only the wealthiest citizens could afford them. The lenses for the glasses were made from rock crystal.

For beauty's sake

Liquid crystals which are used in creating jewellery which can change colour and brightness in accordance to the owner's desire.

USSR-Sri Lanka: 25 prolific years

VIEWPOINT

Viktor IVANOV

This February, the Soviet Union and Sri Lanka are celebrating two events — the 34th anniversary of the independence of Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was called until 1972, and the 25th anniversary of Soviet-Lankese diplomatic relations.

Over a quarter of a century the two countries have accumulated useful experience in cooperation in various spheres. They see eye-to-eye on such vital issues as those of war and peace and on the preservation and expansion of détente. The Sri Lankese, drawing on their own experience, also reckon that the vast sums now being recklessly wasted on the arms race might be used to overcome the economic backwardness of developing countries and to solve various social problems.

Sri Lanka, "the pearl of the ocean", is legitimately worried by the developments in the Indian Ocean. It was precisely

this country that initiated the adoption by the 26th Session of the UN General Assembly of a declaration proclaiming the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. A Sri Lankese representative chairs the UN special committee (which now incorporates 46 states, including the Soviet Union) set up to implement practical steps to translate this declaration into life. If it were not for the obstructionist stand taken by the West and by the United States in particular, which is seeking to turn the Indian Ocean into a "NATO sea" of sorts having built up an enormous military potential there, tangible results could have already been achieved in the establishment of a zone of peace in the area.

The Soviet Union backs moves by the non-alignment movement, of which Sri Lanka is a founder and active member, to reinforce peace and international security as well as the

movement's anti-imperialist and anti-colonial thrust.

The USSR gives its unreserved support to the developing countries in their struggle to reshape international economic relations on a fair and democratic basis. The importance of this goal for Sri Lanka, which is now facing heavy punishment from the gigantic gap in export and import prices and which is a target for pressure from multinational corporations, cannot be stressed too often.

Soviet assistance to Sri Lanka promotes the country's economic growth. The USSR helped build Sri Lanka's first industrial plants for, instance, the steel and tyre works, the flour mill combine as well as those producing materials for the construction industry. These plants now cater for a quarter of the country's state sector industrial output.

In developing trade and

economic cooperation with Sri Lanka the USSR has proved itself both a conscientious partner and a dependable friend. When Sri Lanka, engaged on the nationalization of its oil trade, found itself in the grip of a Western embargo, the Soviet Union helped it out by urgent oil deliveries.

The USSR also helps Sri Lanka train its personnel: over 400 Sri Lankese have received a higher and secondary specialized education in the USSR.

Economic cooperation between the two countries develops at a fast pace and serves as a powerful factor in strengthening relations in other areas as well as the growth of mutual understanding. The Soviet cultural centre in Colombo enjoys local popularity. Hundreds of local residents visit the centre each day to watch new Soviet films and to participate in Soviet artists' performances. Many thousands make use of the centre's library and have joined the Pushkin Club and the Karpov Chess Club.

The nature of the relations of friendship and cooperation existing at present between the USSR and Sri Lanka gives ample reason to believe that these equitable and mutually profitable links will develop further to the benefit of the Soviet and Sri Lankese peoples and will continue to serve the interests of stronger peace and international security.

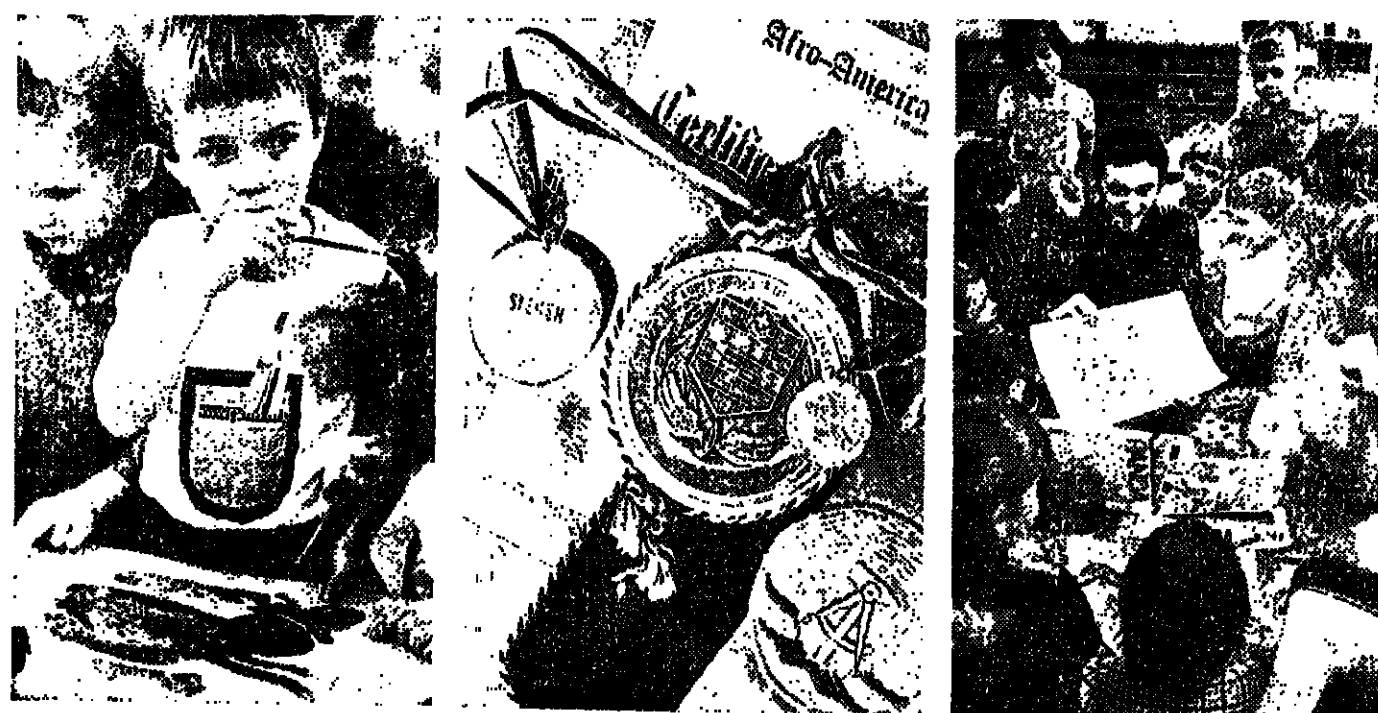
ARTISTS OF THE FUTURE

If the children of the Leningrad kindergarten No. 29, catering for the workers of the Volodarsky tram depot, were asked what they liked best in the world, they most certainly would answer—drawing. This unanimity is certainly not unfounded. The drawings of these gifted artists have been admired in Japan and the USA, France, Poland and the GDR. Their success has won 431 gold, silver and bronze medals, prizes and diplomas of international contests.

All children are talented, what is required is recognizing this wonderful natural gift in time

and so developing it—this is the opinion of the kindergarten director Diana Shatunova and her colleagues. You wouldn't argue that her half a century's experience of educating 6,500 children, whom she has taught to look at the world through the eyes of an artist, gives Diana Shatunova a valid right to this opinion.

Awakening the creative beginning in every child and through this stimulating the thirst for knowledge—is there a teacher's task which could be more important and more noble!



The young artist, Maxim Zaitsev. ● Awards won by the kindergarten at various international exhibitions for its success in the popularization of the arts among children. ● Student Alexander Lytkin, once a pupil of kindergarten No. 29, supervises a drawing lesson.

TURKMEN FINE-FIBRED COTTON

A new variety of fine-fibred cotton grown in Soviet Turkmenia is characterized by its resistance to disease and high yield. During tests it yielded five tonnes of raw cotton per hectare. But the most outstanding feature of the new variety is that it sheds its leaves when the cotton bolls mature. This does away with the need for defoliation, which is an expensive process both in money and labour and in addition pollutes

the environment. Most plantations of fine-fibred cotton in Soviet Central Asia are sown with Turkmen varieties. Turkmenia takes first place in the Soviet Union in terms of its gross cotton output amounting to hundreds of thousands of tonnes a year.

Cotton production in the republic went up considerably with the construction of the 1,100-kilometre-long Karakum

Canal. It has yet still to be finished. As the canal advances towards the Caspian Sea new tracts of land in the Karakum Desert are brought under development.

Soil and climatic conditions especially favourable for the growing of this valuable crop are to be found in the subtropical Atrek Valley and on a plateau near the Caspian Sea, soon to be irrigated by the canal waters.

ELASTIC PIER

The "Iskra" tanker which sailed into Novorossiysk's commercial seaport, hit the pier, but did not receive the usual shock. The force was absorbed by the new structure which yielded, according to the design, by more than a half metre.

The pier designed by Odessa engineers has no usual masonry walls, but consists of five separate ballards. Pipes made out of elastic steel serve as their foundation, and these are capable of bending, making the pier elastic and pliable.

Round the Soviet Union

● TBILISI, THE CAPITAL OF GEORGIA, A CITY WITH A POPULATION EXCEEDING 1,000,000, WILL NO LONGER FEEL THE RUSH HOUR PRESSURE. The electric locomotive manufacturing plant has put over to a sliding schedule. The industrial workers now start at 8 a.m. and all the other workers of the plant, 45 minutes later. The Executive Committee of the City Soviet approved this schedule following the suggestion of the people's deputies. The other large enterprises in the city will also programme their working schedules to this system.

● AZERBAIJANI HYDROGEOLOGISTS HAVE RECORDED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE CASPIAN SEA SINCE 1925. In the year that was the level of the Caspian increased by 25 cm. This was the biggest increment in the last four years when the sea level started to rise after a steady lowering. The scientists attribute this to favourable hydrometeorological conditions which led to increased flow in the Volga, Ural and Kura rivers, and also increased water and snowmelt in the basin of the sea and the rivers feeding it.

● OLGA SLAVYANNINA WE LIVES IN SEVSK, AN OLD TOWN IN CENTRAL RUSSIA COLLECTS FOLK SONGS. She has already recorded some 125 songs, over 3,000 choruses [short humorous ditties] and about 200 children's songs. Several years ago B. Priokskoye Publishing House issued a book, "Folk Songs recorded by Olga Slavyannina while Moscow University publishes issued an anthology entitled "Old Sevsk Wedding compiled on the basis of her singer's works."

● A RELIC GROVE OF BERRIAN SPRUCE AND THE MAJESTIC BIRD AND SEAL COLONIES IN THE NORTH OF SIBERIA HAVE BEEN TAKEN UNDER STATE PROTECTION. This area is comprised of several islands at the mouth of the Chukotka Bay, and also includes the bays bordering on the Pacific, Bering and other Northern seas, the Koni Peninsula and the Yamkiye Isles.

Communication

gap bridged

A new language has been added to the world's repertoire. This is a technical lingo designed by Soviet and Finnish transmission line operators, who have worked on linking up the unified national power grid with the electric power ring in Finland.

In order to talk to each other, the operators on either end have learnt to communicate with only two hundred words and phrases. This "lingua franca" bridges the communication gap, making it unnecessary for the Finnish operators to learn Russian technical terms and vice versa.

The vocabulary covers all possible situations especially concerning emergency procedures, such as lightning damage, break-downs, and ice-over cables. These urgent messages guarantee the reliable operation of the 330-kV line, along which Soviet electricity passes from Leningrad via Vyborg to a Finnish substation.

Places to visit

A TOWN 20 CENTURIES OLD

Echmiadzin, lying in the middle of the Ararat Valley, is now a historical and cultural monument as well as a tourist centre.

Built some 2,000 years ago, the town has over 70 monuments, among them a pagan temple, early churches, and medieval buildings. Also to be found in Echmiadzin are the first printing house to have been set up in eastern Armenia and a church seminary from which many well-known figures in 19th-century science and culture graduated. A studio, block and an observatory were attached to the seminary.

At one time Echmiadzin was a strategically important fortress. In the 2nd century A.D. the Armenian Tsar Vagharshat made it the capital of his country. With the advent of Christianity the town became the home of the patriarch.

The collection of manuscripts belonging to the church at Echmiadzin forms the basis of the



Echmiadzin, a 4th century cathedral.

Matenadaran collection, the biggest research institute specializing in early manuscripts in Yerevan.

While present-day Echmiadzin is to be enlarged—its population

has grown over ten times under Soviet power—care will be taken of the town's historical and architectural monuments. A tourist complex is also being built.

Science and technology

AN AUTOMATIC TSUNAMI MONITOR

An automatic comprehensive warning system for the observation of tsunami is being established along the Pacific coast of the USSR. The system will operate in the regions most susceptible to underwater earthquakes.

Yuri Orshansky, the chief engineer of the Tsunami Centre set up on Sakhalin Island last year, told a TASS correspondent that the equipment designed by Soviet specialists for the new measuring acoustic centre is 30 times more accurate than all existing instruments. 12-metre-long buoys, practically unbreakable and made out of special plastics, will enable the maritime stations to float. The buoy is designed on the vankavankana principle (a doll with weights attached to its base enabling it to bob upright again).

The automatic system connected to computers will be linked to communications centres for warning the coastal population of impending quakes. The first part of the system will become operational by 1985.

CRYOGENIC MEDICAL TREATMENT

Soviet medical scientists have made great strides in the development of cryogenic medicine. The use of super-low temperatures in medicine is a new trend which has won wide recognition in oncology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology and gynaecology. Surgery, in particular, makes use of cryogenic refrigeration. The reliability and effectiveness of this method are considerably enhanced by programmable cryogenic devices. With this end in view the Moscow Medical Equipment Research and Testing Institute and the All-Union Scientific Research Centre have jointly designed such equipment and arranged its full-scale production.

Data from experiments on animals lasting over many years have made it possible to develop optimum treatment procedures and methods for predicting the effect of treatment.

MUSHROOMS: THE DISEASE PREVENTOR

Penicillium Gigante is an inedible mushroom, but specialists are still cultivating its growth.

The reason being that the mushroom is a wonderful guardian against disease in coniferous forests.

In a lengthy search for means to combat the scourge of pine and spruce—root rot, which proves fairly resistant to chemicals—forest growers at the Dzhirgatal experimental station outside Kanas were attracted by Penicillium Gigante. They established that in areas where this mushroom is found the coniferous trees are not infected by the spore.

Tests revealed that in fact the mushroom prevents spore growth, and as a result laboratories are being established in Lithuania for spawning and rearing the mushroom.

MUSEUM ON WHEELS

An unusual form, an exact replica of the original electric carriages which roamed the town at the beginning of the century, has set out through the streets of the old town of Lvov (Western Ukraine). The train is attached to the Lvov excursion bus, its first passengers were schoolchildren. While a guide told them about Lvov's history, the medieval towers, architectural and historical monuments of the town floated past as vivid illustration to his words. The old veteran looks decidedly old-fashioned by comparison with its modern workmates with whom each weekend it sets off from the trainshed.

Flamingoes in Mangyshlak

Flamingoes now spend the winter near the city of Shevchenko, on the east Caspian coast.

They have chosen Lake Karakol stretching over some 4,000 hectares of barren stony desert land on the Mangyshlak Peninsula as their winter quarters. The lake does not freeze over even during really hard frosts, and plentiful food supplies are to be found in the clumps of reeds surrounding it.

The regional hunting inspectorate and nature-lovers keep the flamingoes under observation. The nature-lovers hope that the flamingoes have come to stay. If so Lake Karakol will become their northernmost wintering spot. There are good grounds for this hope: tens of thousands of swans, storks, ducks and other birds already live round the lake.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

KAZAKHSTAN'S NEW RESERVOIR

In order to improve irrigation in the fertile lands near Kazakhstan's capital of Alma-Ata, designs have been drawn up for the Bartogol reservoir in the upper reaches of the Chilik River, where it runs at a height of more than 3,000 metres above sea level.

This year the first stage of the reservoir will be put into operation, writes Ye. Arasev, the republic's first deputy minister for land reclamation and water resources, in PRAVDA. The dam will be 60 metres high and the man-made lake's area will cover 14 square kilometres. Vernal floods and water resulting from the thawing of perpetual snow and ice from the mountains will replenish this lake.

The reservoir will dispatch water to small river basins through the main canal running for over 170 kilometres. For this purpose 30 million cubic metres of rock need to be removed. The artificial stream will comprise of about 50 hydrotechnical facilities, including seventeen multi-flow checking structures.

What are the gains for the republic from such important projects? First of all, the irrigated lands will be adequately and continually provided with water. The farms' harvests will increase markedly, and this will stabilize food production. The irrigated lands in the Chilik-Chemolun interval area are planned to be increased almost twofold, as a result the country will receive dozens of thousands of tonnes of vegetables, fruit and fodder.

SELF-EDUCATION: A MUST FOR A YOUNG SPECIALIST

Academician Gury Marchuk, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, granted

an interview with the *TEKHNIKA-MOLODOYI* magazine, centering around the problems of a young specialist.

A young specialist starting out upon an industrial career and having obtained an adequate background should be able to digest all the latest information offered in the field, to use scientific abstracts and the knowledge obtained from his discussions with scientists and from his own experience. Because of the rapid rate of updating in every field one must cope with continuous changes only through constant study, contends Gury Marchuk. Without this one would immediately lose contact with modern methods and ideas, inhibiting oneself in making a discovery or an innovation. The latest technology essential for such research includes computers and programming techniques, to which one should be fully accustomed both morally and intellectually.

Only a person who keeps a hand upon the pulse of modern science and technology can reach the stage of becoming a progress initiator.

Our educational system, therefore, must respond to modern changes by training a future specialist in self-education, management and social relations. In this connection I want to mention the Novosibirsk State University and Moscow's Physical Engineering Institute, where students embark on accomplishing practical tasks during their third year.

WILL PLANETARY LINE-UP SPELL DISASTER ON EARTH?

This year, the planets of the Solar System will occupy coincidental positions in their orbits, writes science observer B. Kononov in *IZVESTIA*. They are now all gathering to one side of the Solar System. In the middle of May they are due to form up in a rough line in what astronomers call "the parade of planets". Some scientists believe that the combined gravitation

of the lined-up planets will cause a "tidal hump" on the Sun raising the level of its activity and resulting in violent volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and other natural disasters on earth.

American scientists, for example, predicted that there would be a shift in the peak of solar activity from 1980 to 1982 as a result of "the parade of planets". This, however, did not happen. Solar activity reached a peak in 1980 while, at present, it is falling as per usual. Analysis of the Sun's behaviour in previous line-ups has shown that increase in solar activity has not been accompanied by disasters.

True the weather conditions experienced on our planet last autumn and at the beginning of the winter were unusual. Yet, it would be rash to link this directly with "the parade of planets".

THE TRIANGLE SITUATION

Lev Durov, an actor with the Malaya Bronnaya Theatre, discusses his work for the theatre in the *TRUD* newspaper.

We actors come third in line, he writes. A playwright and a director are above us, though the two have rather differing artistic views, and each having their own experiences of life. We actors thus find ourselves in a difficult position, learning to (understand) one's own individuality and personal talent.

This tertiary position is particularly apparent when a disagreement arises between a director, a playwright and an actor. But when all three can strike a happy spark, one can no longer allude to the actor's tertiary position. The actor becomes a co-creator, and a creator himself.

The feeling of being assigned a tertiary role is always a personal drama. A drama which exists with the actor throughout his life. Only strong and creative personalities can cope with this situation in the theatre.

FASHIONS FROM TALLINN



A smart outfit inspired by folk motifs (left). A modern dress costume by Estonian fashion designers.

About 1,200 new designs are produced every year by the House of Fashions in the Estonian capital of Tallinn. The vast popularity enjoyed by Estonian fashions can be accounted for by the way the clothes designers in this republic manage to combine a modern look with themes taken from folklore and art.

The Tallinn House of Fashions publishes its own magazine "Siluet" which is on sale all through the USSR. It sets the tone for fashions over the coming season.



From the history of: Left to right: designer Mari Kanassar from the Tallinn House of Fashions, art consultant Hille Targel carries news about and Katali Lytkova, executive secretary of the fashionable "Siluet" editorial board at work on a forthcoming issue of the magazine.

VIEWPOINT

TRADE LANDMARKS

Sergel ALYOSHIN, USSR Deputy Minister of Trade

The 10th five-year plan (1976-80) witnessed a 24.4 per cent rise in Soviet state and co-operative retail trade. The current five-year plan envisages a similar growth rate; in 1981 trade grew by 4.4 per cent.

The volume of trade is a mirror of purchasing power. To take just one example: between 1940 and 1980 there was a 30 per cent increase in the population of the USSR, while trade (in comparable prices) jumped up by 10.0 times. Throughout the period, it should be added, the prices of basic commodities remained stable.

This figure reflects growth in personal incomes, improved purchasing power and a considerable increase in the output of consumer goods. In 1980, 80 per cent of personal demand for foodstuffs and other consumer goods was met by the state and co-operative retail trade. Individual small holdings working on a market basis made up the rest.

There has been a positive improvement in the structure of sales. There is a growing trend towards increased consumption of foods with high calory value. Thus, in 1980, as compared with 1965, the USSR consumed the following amounts of foodstuffs per head of population: meat and meat products—57 kg (as against 41 kg in 1965); milk and milk products—314 (251) kg; eggs—238 (124); fish and fish products—17 (12) kg; sugar—12.2 (34.2) kg; vegetables—98 (72) kg; fruit and berries—34 (28) kg. Over this period there was an understandable decline in the consumption of bread and bakery products from 156 to 130 kg, and of potatoes, from 142 to 112 kg.

Public catering, including factory, office and mine (some of which are underground) canteens, as well as those on university campuses, and cafes and restaurants, has been drastically improved and now serves as many as 97 million people daily.

Another service has become very popular with housewives in recent years: to save time and to make life easier you can now order groceries which are delivered direct to your place of work.

Demand for clothes, knitwear and footwear has also increased. There is a brisk trade in entertainment and household items such as radio and TV sets, especially colour TV, refrigerators and cars. Millions of people moving into new houses like to buy brand-new suites of furniture. Between 1965 and 1980 furniture sales increased twofold.

Unfortunately, the growing demand for certain commodities is not yet met in full. The supply of foodstuffs is hindered by poor harvests and by the draught experienced in recent years. To improve the country's trading systems, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers recently adopted a Resolution envisaging a whole programme of measures aimed at better trading services and at a more balanced supply to demand in interrelations to be achieved in the current five-year plan.

